



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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September 4, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *JE Fielding MD*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **DPH PARTICIPATION IN THE FBI JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE**

This is to inform you that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has accepted an invitation to participate in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

Since the Anthrax Attacks of 2001, DPH has had a close working relationship with the Los Angeles FBI Field Office. Our department is routinely consulted by the FBI, for its technical expertise in assisting in the evaluation of potential local terrorism threats involving biological, chemical and radiological agents. In December 2005, DPH and the FBI developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines protocols for the joint investigation of a bioterrorism event to ensure effective collaboration in situations where DPH in conducting public health surveillance activities may detect early evidence of a biological attack, while the FBI may be simultaneously conducting a parallel investigation.

With the recognition that DPH is the local partner in protecting the health of the public from acts of bioterrorism, the Los Angeles FBI Field Office has invited DPH to become a member of its Los Angeles JTTF. The JTTF provides the ability for the FBI to partner with local stakeholder agencies to jointly detect, prevent, and respond to acts of terrorism. DPH will enter into the standard JTTF MOU, which has been utilized by the Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles County District Attorneys Office, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The MOU has been reviewed by County Counsel.

Participation on the JTTF will afford the FBI the ability to utilize the technical skills and expertise of specialized DPH personnel, and will ensure the early involvement of DPH in the investigation of incidents which may pose a public health threat.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:jf

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors